

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-14 have been canceled. Claims 15-23 are currently pending and have been indicated in the Quayle action mailed February 26, 2004 to be allowable.

Amendments to the Claims

Non-elected claims 6-14 are now canceled.

Claim 15 has been amended to correct the grammar at the beginning of the claim from “A” to “An.”

Objection to the inclusion of non-elected claims 6-14

Claims 6-14 are canceled herein.

Objection to the lack of sequence identifiers

The Office action and accompanying Notice to Comply refer to sequences on pages 2, 6 and 19 of the specification. With respect to pages 2 and 6 appropriate sequence identifiers are added to the paragraphs by the amendments made herein.

With respect to the table found on page 19 applicant does not see any recitation of a sequence *per se*. The referrals to the deleted V3 loop in the title of the table and in the column marked “Antigen” do not represent a sequence *per se*. Rather they are a short-hand designation of an immunosome anchored gp 160 protein in which a six amino acid portion of the V3 loop has been deleted.

Modification to claim 15

While applicants appreciate that prosecution on the merits has been closed, a minor amendment has been made to correct the first word of claim 15 to be “An” rather than “A” so as to be grammatically correct when paired with the next word “immunogenic.” Applicants have made this amendment herein to avoid the necessity of an examiner’s amendment to effect the grammatical correction.

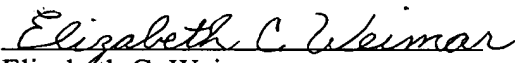
Conclusion

The foregoing amendments and remarks are being made to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. A favorable action is awaited. Should the Examiner find that an interview would be helpful to further prosecution of this application, they are invited to telephone the undersigned at their convenience.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Date: April 26, 2004
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Customer No. **09629**
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel: 202-739-5812
Fax: 202-739-3001


Elizabeth C. Weimar
Registration No. 44,478